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# GROUPING PUBLIC BUILDINGS

## IN CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS

BY

RALPH ROYAL BURGESS

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THESIS FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE  
IN ARCHITECTURE

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COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

PRESENTED JUNE 1904



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

May 27, 1904 190

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE THESIS PREPARED UNDER MY SUPERVISION BY

RALPH ROYAL BURGESS

ENTITLED GROUPING PUBLIC BUILDINGS IN CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS.

IS APPROVED BY ME AS FULFILLING THIS PART OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE

OF Bachelor of Science in Architecture.

*C. B. Lifford Picken*

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT OF Architecture





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## Grouping Public Buildings in Champaign, Illinois.

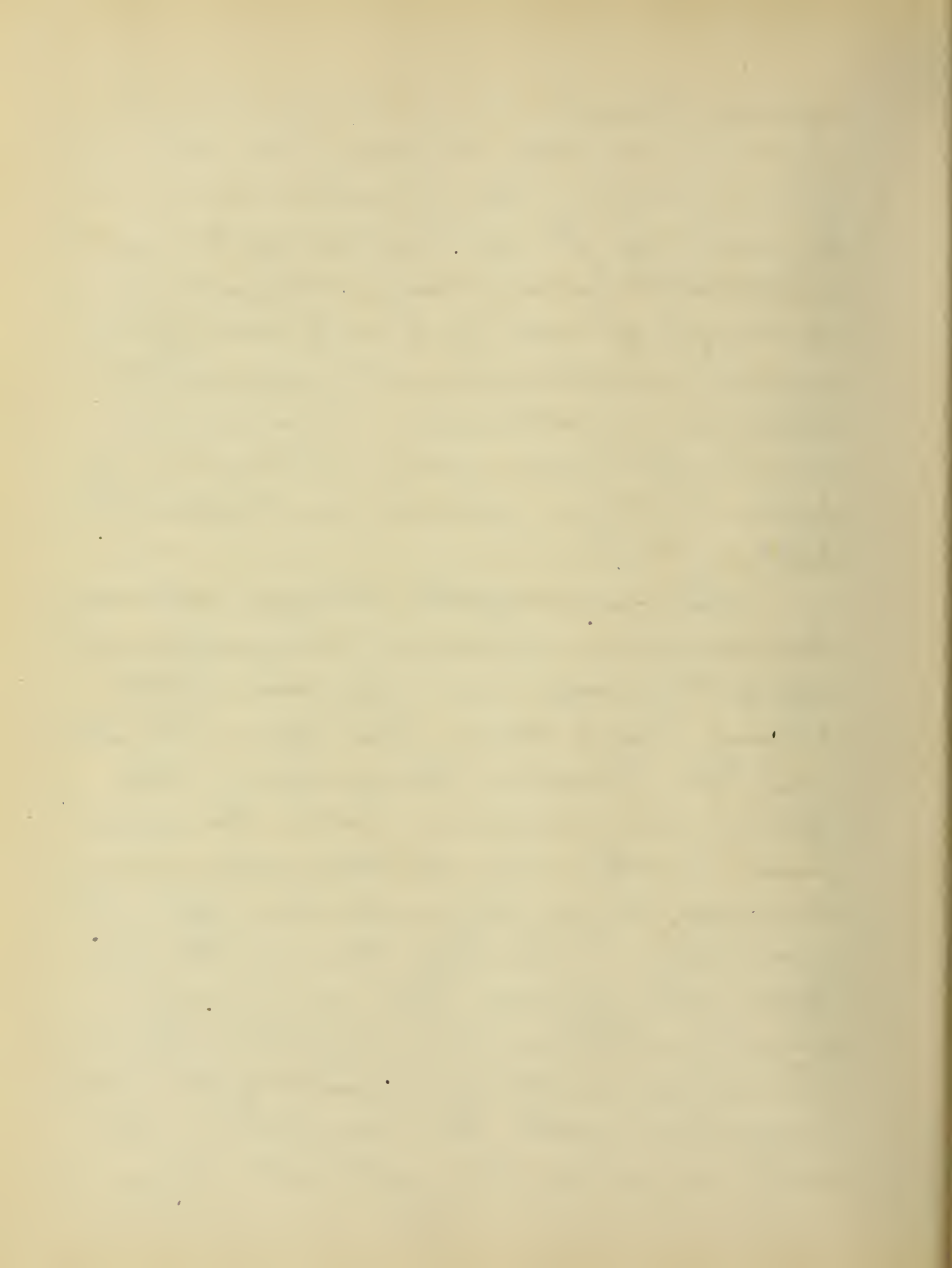
Until recent years but little attempt has been made in the United States to lay out cities in such a way as to secure pleasing architectural and landscape effects. This has been done in many European cities, and within the last few years several of the larger cities of the United States have considered such schemes. Cleveland, Brooklyn, Washington, and Dayton have partly carried into effect municipal improvements tending toward a grouping of streets, parks, public buildings, etc., with reference to one or more principal axes to produce a beautiful architectural composition.

In applying this problem of grouping public buildings to a small city like Champaign, an attempt has been made to keep the arrangement as simple as possible. The trapezoid bounded by University Avenue, Neil, Main, and Walnut Streets was chosen on account of its central location and because its unsymmetrical form afforded



various pleasing arrangements of buildings. Care has been taken to preserve the streets so far as possible in their present locations, and to emphasize the principal axes of the composition. Park Street has been widened to provide three driveways separated by rows of trees, affording desirable locations for public and private buildings on both sides. This boulevard connects the park inclosed by the group of public buildings with the present West Side Park.

The various public buildings which have been considered necessary in this group for the city of Champaign are: City Hall, Hotel, Library, Opera House, Post Office, Club House, and Fire Department Headquarters, while the remaining locations about the central park are taken up with stores, the various buildings being designed to harmonize with each other. The high tower on the City Hall, which occupies the commanding situation at the small end of the trapezoid, is intended as the focal point of the whole composition, while the monument in the park occupies the real center, being on





the main axis through the park and also on the axis of Park Street.

The most valuable information found in solving this problem was secured from the "Report on the Group Plan of the Public Buildings of the City of Cleveland, Ohio," in the Architectural library and from the various architectural magazines.

The chief difficulties in the solution have been to decide which locations were best for the various buildings and just how much or how little to take into the composition. The locations have been taken in most cases as near as possible to the present ones of the different buildings.

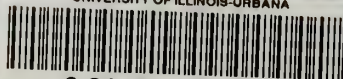
The arrangement and extent of the composition is not presented as the best possible solution but as one of the many possible solutions of such a problem.







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